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SMALL BRIDGES OF COOPERATION

Stumbling Blocks to African Union Cited by Ambassador

By James F. Dent
Staff Writer

The problems of establishing a continental African union were discussed Friday by A. B. Kofi, Ghanaian ambassador to the United States, at a World

Events Forum program at West Virginia State College.

"The difficulties are many," the ambassador said. "None of the 38 African countries have been able to satisfactorily decide on the type of union desired—whether it should be a loose federation or a United States-type of union; whether it should be just economic or economic, social and political."

"Small bridges" of cooperation are being built between the various African nations, however, he said, and in time they hopefully will lead to a fuller cooperation and cohesion.

"Getting together under one government is hampered by accusations that some countries are trying to take over others," Ambassador Kofi said. "Artificial boundaries were created in Africa by the colonial powers and frontier disputes have been many."

Also, he said, the cold war has been brought into Africa and has caused ruptures.

"In Ghana, we are a peace loving people," he said, "but we are determined to live by our own traditions. We respect all ideologies but we do not want foreign ideologies imported into Ghana. We hate domination. When our ex-president declared Ghana a one-party state with Communist ideals, there was nothing else to do but depose him. We have been independent for 10 years. Never again will

we allow one man to wield power as Nkrumah did. Political opposition was stifled. Political prisoners were rounded up. Some of them lie in unknown graves."

THE RECENT troubles in Ghana, he added, were not only political but economic. "Unrestrained spending had caused chaos."

He said they were "happy with the amazing recovery shown under the new government," but that the present military-police government was only a "caretaker" group until the situation in Ghana was stabilized.

Before a question and answer session following his speech, Ambassador Kofi said he "did not come here to discuss American foreign policy or Vietnam. All I want, is peace."

He was asked if, in spite of his defects, the former Ghanaian president, Kwame Nkrumah, had not done much for Africa.

"Yes," the ambassador replied, "but he had a motive. He sought power. He wished to be the leader of all of Africa."

In answer to other questions the ambassador said the U. S. Central Intelligence Agency "played no part whatsoever" in the overthrow of Nkrumah and that the American and German Peace Corps and other such groups "have been of tremendous help."